
Spaceport News

John F. Kennedy Space Center - America's gateway to the universe



2012 Spaceport News Summary

The 2012 Spaceport News used the above banner for the year.

Introduction

The first issue of the Spaceport News was December 13, 1962. The 1963, 1964 and 1965 Spaceport News were issued weekly. The Spaceport News was issued every two weeks, starting July 7, 1966, until the last issue on February 24, 2014. Spaceport Magazine, a monthly issue, superseded the Spaceport News in April 2014, until the final issue, Jan./Feb. 2020. The two 1962 Spaceport News issues and the issues from 1996 until the final Spaceport Magazine issue, are available for viewing at [this website](#). The Spaceport News issues from 1963 through 1995 are currently not available online.

In this Summary, black font is original Spaceport News text, blue font is something I added or someone else/some other source provided, and purple font is a hot link.

All links were working at the time I completed this Spaceport News Summary. The Spaceport News writer is acknowledged, if noted in the Spaceport News article.

From The January 13, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, "**Kennedy inspires, reaches out on Space Day**", by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. Part of the article states "During a Space Day presentation by state legislators Jan. 11, Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana spoke about the 50th anniversary of Kennedy Space Center and the center's plans for the future, and thanked the state for the partnership it has with Kennedy in space projects..."

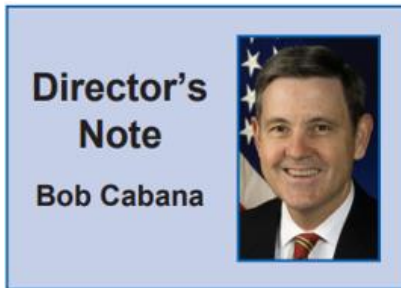
Throughout the day, space industry representatives visited with legislators. Cabana met with the Lt. Governor, Senate President Mike Haridopolos, Speaker of the House Dean

Cannon, the staff of incoming Senate President Don Gaetz and incoming Speaker Will Weatherford to highlight Kennedy’s path forward...”.



“Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana presents a plaque containing a state of Florida flag that was flown on the space shuttle to the state legislature during Space Day in Tallahassee, Fla., on Jan. 11. Looking on, at right, is Senate President Mike Haridopolos.”

On page 2, **“No slowing down in 2012 as Kennedy is busy as ever”**.



“A new year is on the horizon and we at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center are as busy as ever. We’re standing up two new programs, preparing to launch three scientific missions, updating our facilities and processing the space shuttles for their new homes. In 2012, Kennedy celebrates 50 years as the space agency’s pre-eminent launch site, and our commitment to sending payloads and humans into space has not wavered.

NASA’s Commercial Crew Program will continue to work toward developing a commercial crew capability that will once again carry our astronauts into space on a U.S. spacecraft... Shuttles Atlantis, Endeavour and Discovery will continue to be processed for their future public display sites, where they will inspire NASA’s next generation of explorers. And as the nation embarks on this new chapter in space exploration, Kennedy will continue to play an integral role in NASA’s and America’s scientific research and discoveries for the next half century and beyond.”

Happy New Year!
Bob Cabana”

On pages 4 and 5, **“Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center”**.



“Transition and retirement of the space shuttles continue at Kennedy Space Center. Above, workers attach a tail cone on space shuttle Discovery on Jan. 12...”.

On page 8, **“Atlantis powers down final time”**.



“...the flight deck of space shuttle Atlantis is illuminated one last time during preparations to power down the spacecraft during transition and retirement activities in Orbiter Processing Facility-2...”.

From The January 27, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 1.



“During a ceremony Jan. 18 in the Space Shuttle Plaza at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex (KSCVC) in Florida, state and local dignitaries break ground for the future home of space shuttle Atlantis. From left are KSCVC Chief Operating Officer Bill Moore; Kennedy Space Center Deputy Director Janet Petro; Florida Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll; Jeremy Jacobs, chairman and chief executive officer of Delaware North Companies; and STS-135 Commander Chris Ferguson. Delaware North Parks and

Resorts, in partnership with NASA’s Kennedy Space Center, broke ground for the 65,000-square-foot exhibit that will house Atlantis at the visitor complex.“...

[This is some video from the groundbreaking ceremony.](#)

On page 2, “**Supersonic research, microgravity training fleet grows**”, by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. In part, the article states “The final pieces of a unique squadron of supersonic fighters arrived at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center on Jan. 19, where they will be reassembled and put to work with a private company aiming to use them for research and microgravity training. The new planes were part of a group of five F-104 fighters bought by Starfighters Inc. from the Italian Air Force. The company already had four of the aircraft, but that wasn’t enough for the company to pursue a number of different opportunities...”



“A truck delivers an F-104 Starfighter to the hangar Jan. 19 at the Shuttle Landing Facility at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center where Starfighters Inc. operates.”

On page 4, “**Plaque left in Atlantis a tribute to shuttle workers**”, by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. A portion of the article says “A simple, plastic plaque left inside space shuttle Atlantis following the last mission of NASA’s shuttle program is a priceless tribute to the work force, said one of the managers who worked with the spacecraft for more than 20 years. “I was just overwhelmed with joy, first that they left it, and humbled that they thought of us,” said Walter “Buddy” McKenzie, who manages the forward and midbody sections of Atlantis for United Space Alliance, or USA.



“The crew of STS-135, the final flight of the Space Shuttle Program, left this plaque on the flight deck of Atlantis after they left the spacecraft following the shuttle’s landing in July 2011...”.

The plaque was carried into orbit with astronaut Chris Ferguson, who commanded STS-135, the final flight of the Space Shuttle Program's 30 years of missions. It's an 8-inch by 8½-inch plaque, sized precisely to fit over the center display in the cockpit... "We wanted to thank the people who made it all possible," Ferguson said recently. "It wasn't a promotion, it was just a way for the astronauts who have used this vehicle for 30 years to go back and forth safely to space to thank the people who made it happen day in and day out. The bottom line is, it was a tribute to them who made it all happen."...

[The following is an article about the plaque in collectSPACE.](#)

On page 5, "**2012 NASA Day of Remembrance**".



"A blue sky is reflected in the massive granite Space Mirror Memorial at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex... during Kennedy Space Center's NASA Day of Remembrance on Jan. 26." "Kennedy Space Center Director Robert Cabana, forefront, Deputy Director Janet Petro, right, and United Space Alliance Vice President for Aerospace Services/Florida Site Director Mark Nappi place a wreath at the Space Mirror Memorial. The Day of Remembrance honors members of the NASA family who lost their lives while furthering the cause of exploration and discovery, including the astronaut crews of Apollo 1 and space shuttles Challenger and Columbia..."

From The February 10, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, **“Historic shuttles to arrive at permanent homes by year's end”**, by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. Part of the feature says “By the end of this year, NASA's space shuttles will be in their new homes. Recently, the shuttles were on the move as part of the transition and retirement (T&R) activities at Kennedy Space Center in Florida...”

Endeavour was backed out of the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) and towed to Orbiter Processing Facility-2 (OPF-2). The next day, shuttle Atlantis made an appearance outside the VAB as it was towed from the VAB transfer aisle into high bay 4 for temporary storage. Atlantis is being prepared for public display at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex... Endeavour was moved to OPF-2 so that technicians can continue to prepare it for display. The shuttle will remain in the OPF until it is ready to be ferried to the California Science Center in Los Angeles...

Future work on Atlantis includes reinstallation of its FRCS and OMS pods once it is moved back to the OPF in late March. Replica Shuttle Main Engines also will be installed, and safing of the pyrotechnic systems will be completed. Atlantis then will be configured for its display site, and prepared for its short trip to the visitor complex...

Discovery is in OPF-1 where processing is quickly coming to an end as it is being readied for display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va...”.



“Space shuttle Atlantis is towed into the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) high bay 4 after being towed around from the VAB transfer aisle at Kennedy Space Center on Feb. 2. Shuttle Atlantis will remain in temporary storage in high bay 4, while Space Shuttle Program transition and retirement work continues on Discovery and Endeavour.”

On page 2, **“Center director briefs NASA Alumni League”**, by Brittney Longley, Spaceport News. In part, the article reads “The NASA Alumni League (NAL) has always championed the many programs at Kennedy Space Center, and with all the exciting news lately, the group wanted to learn about the latest and greatest. They had the opportunity to do so during the NASA Alumni League breakfast Jan. 31 at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex’s Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility. Kennedy’s Center Director Bob Cabana told the league the center still has a lot of new work ahead of it...”

Cabana presented an overview of the center's new goals, the programs that were created as NASA's Space Shuttle Program came to an end and the new and exciting missions Kennedy is planning to launch...



"Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana shares the latest happenings at the center with the NASA Alumni League on Jan. 31 at the visitor complex."

On pages 4 and 5, "**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**".



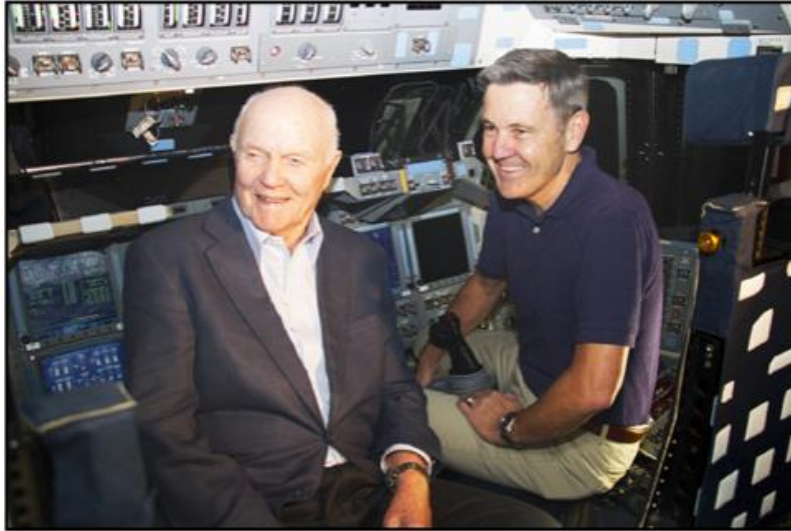
"Russel Rhodes, surrounded by friends and colleagues, celebrates his retirement on Feb. 3 at OSB II after 52 years of federal service with NASA."

From The February 25, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, "**NASA, Glenn mark 50 years**", by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. A portion of the article reads "The Beatles were eight months away from releasing their first single, "Love Me Do," when John Glenn rocketed into space on Feb. 20, 1962, to become the first American to orbit Earth... Fifty years after the Mercury-Atlas 6 mission, Glenn, 90, still draws a capacity crowd. He returned to NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Feb. 17 to begin a weekend of events celebrating the milestone..."

Fellow Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter, who served as CapCom during Glenn's mission before flying his own mission three months later, also made the trip to Florida to celebrate NASA's first orbital missions...

Now retired from space and politics, Glenn said the challenge of spaceflight continues to press today's designers and engineers to keep making strides. "These things depend on people," Glenn said. "Nothing's going to happen unless you have people to do it."



"Mercury astronaut Sen. John Glenn and NASA Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana sit in the flight deck of space shuttle Discovery in Orbiter Processing Facility-1 on Feb. 18. Both flew on Discovery in the 1990s."

On page 4, "**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**".

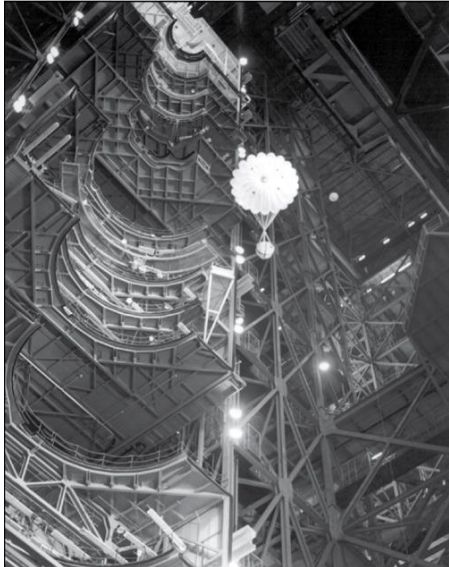


"NASCAR racer Jason Leffler with Kyle Busch Motorsports (KBM) drives his instrument-laden vehicle down the three-mile-long Shuttle Landing Facility runway at Kennedy Space Center on Feb. 8. The operation is part of KBM's program to test aerodynamic and real-world capabilities on one of the flattest surfaces in the world. Racing teams have been using the runway for testing since 2008. KBM signed a Space Act Agreement with NASA to use the facility's runway."

On page 8.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center's 50th anniversary, enjoy these vintage photos . . .

FROM THE VAULT



“A parachute system, designed to carry an instrument-laden probe down through the dense atmosphere of torrid, cloud-shrouded Venus, was tested in Kennedy Space Center's Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) on June 4, 1975. The tests are in preparation for a Pioneer multi-probe mission to Venus scheduled for launch from Kennedy in 1978. Full-scale (12-foot in diameter) parachutes with simulated pressure vessels weighing up to 45 pounds were dropped from heights of up to 450 feet to the floor of the VAB where the impact was cushioned by a honeycomb cardboard impact arrestor. The VAB offered an ideal, wind-free testing facility at no additional construction cost and was used for similar tests of the parachute system for the twin Viking spacecraft.”

From The March 18, 2012, Spaceport News

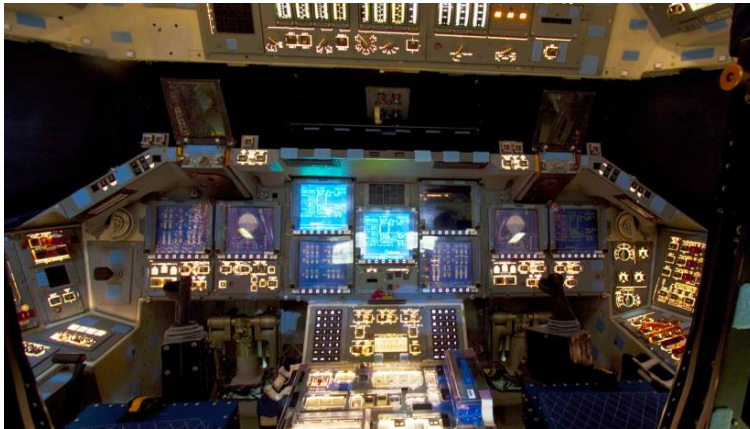
On page 5, “**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**”.



“NASA and the Space Coast Stadium in Viera, Fla., celebrate Space Day during Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals spring training game with the Houston Astros on March 8. Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana threw the first pitch...”. “Spaceperson greeted and took photos with baseball fans...”.

On page 6, “**Shuttle team reflects on permanent power-downs**”, by Anna Heiney, Spaceport News. In part, the feature reads “Space shuttles Discovery and Atlantis are on the move today between different facilities at Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39. Discovery is rolling out of Orbiter Processing Facility-1 and into the Vehicle Assembly Building while Atlantis takes its place in OPF-1. The moves come after the vehicles were powered down for the final time: Discovery on Dec. 16, 2011, and Atlantis on Dec. 22. Endeavour is targeted to be powered-down in May...

"After working so many years -- since 1988 -- on these vehicles, it's a little hard to say, 'I'm taking my best car and I'm going to not drive it anymore. In fact, I'm going to go ahead and fix it so it can't ever crank anymore,' " said United Space Alliance's Walter "Buddy" McKenzie. After overseeing preparations of several space shuttles during his career and witnessing the power-downs, he reflected, "The realization really hits you when you're powering down a vehicle for the last time."...



“In Orbiter Processing Facility-2 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the flight deck of space shuttle Atlantis is illuminated one last time Dec. 22 during preparations to power down the shuttle during Space Shuttle Program transition and retirement activities...”.

On page 8.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center's 50th anniversary, enjoy this vintage photo . . .
FROM THE VAULT



“The cab used for emergency egress from the Apollo/Saturn V rocket hits a reverse pull arrestor cable system which slowed it to a stop during the first manned run of the system from Launch Complex 39's Pad A on Jan. 25, 1969. Riding in the nine-person-capacity cab were astronaut Stuart Roosa, a member of the Apollo 9 support crew; Chuck Billings, KSC Safety Office; and Art Porcher, Design Engineering. In the background is the Saturn V launch vehicle for the Apollo 9 mission...”.

From The March 23, 2012 Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 3, **“Astronauts check out Dragon's accommodations”**, by Rebecca Regan, Spaceport New. Part of the article states “Test drives aren't just for cars. Recently, NASA astronauts had an opportunity to get up close and personal with the spacecraft they may fly aboard in the future. They tried out the positioning of displays and generally assessed whether they would be comfortable inside of the vehicle for hours at a time... The team of astronauts and industry experts climbed inside a test version of the Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Dragon capsule, a spacecraft intended to carry astronauts to the International Space Station or other low Earth orbit destinations...

In 2011, the agency's Commercial Crew Program (CCP) signed a funded Space Act Agreement with the company to enhance Dragon's capabilities to include the transportation of humans... As part of the Commercial Crew Development Round 2 (CCDev2) agreement, the company invited NASA into its plant in Hawthorne, Calif., to check out a prototype of the crew capsule...”.



“NASA astronauts and industry experts are monitored while they check out the crew accommodations Jan. 30 in SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which is under development for NASA's Commercial Crew Program (CCP)...”.

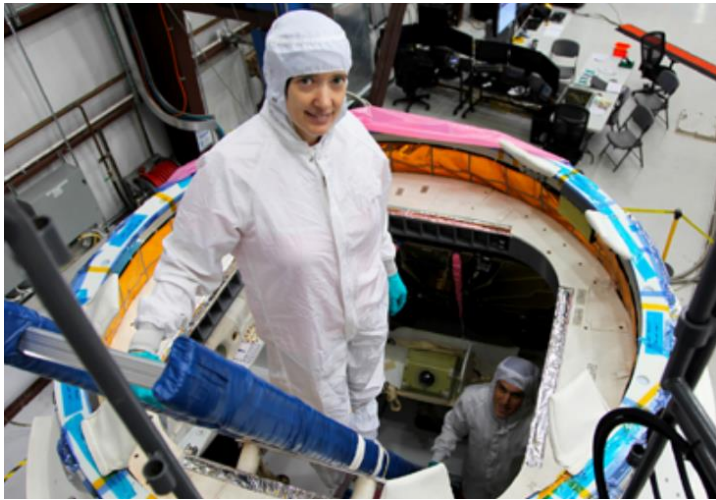
On page 5, **“Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center”**.



“Space shuttle Discovery, in the foreground, and space shuttle Atlantis almost meet nose to nose at Kennedy Space Center on March 9. Discovery was towed out of Orbiter Processing Facility-1 (OPF-1) for its move to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB), while Atlantis was towed out of the VAB for its move to OPF-1. The work is part of the Space Shuttle Program's transition and retirement processing of shuttle Discovery, which is being prepared for display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va. Discovery will remain in the VAB until its scheduled transport atop a NASA Shuttle Carrier Aircraft modified 747 jet to Dulles International Airport in Virginia on April 17. Discovery then will be transported to the Smithsonian on April 19...”.

From The April 6, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 4, “**Astronaut gets familiar with SpaceX Dragon capsule**”, by Cheryl Mansfield, Spaceport News. Part of the article reads “NASA mission specialist Megan McArthur was “in the house” March 28 representing NASA’s astronaut corps in a crew equipment interface test in preparation for the upcoming SpaceX demonstration flight targeted for April 30... The CEIT gives astronauts, payload integration personnel and SpaceX engineers a final opportunity to test and familiarize themselves with the Dragon spacecraft... Flight controllers were able to walk through the procedures they will use once the Dragon is berthed at the International Space Station...”.



“NASA astronaut Megan McArthur takes part in a crew equipment interface test inside the Dragon capsule in the SpaceX hangar at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Space Launch Complex-40 on March 28 .”

On page 5, “**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**”.



“A Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne space shuttle main engine, or SSME, is rotated into a horizontal position with the aid of an engine-handling device attached to a crane inside the SSME Processing Facility, the engine shop at Kennedy Space Center, on March 28. The engine will be placed in a horizontal position on a portable workstand. The engine is one of the last SSMEs remaining at Kennedy and is being prepared for shipment to NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. The first two groups of engines were shipped from Kennedy to Stennis in November 2011 and January 2012. The remaining engines are scheduled to depart on April 9. Altogether, 15 shuttle-era engines will be stored at Stennis for reuse on NASA’s Space Launch System heavy-lift rocket, under development.”

On page 7, “**SCA crews focus on ferrying shuttles home**”, by Kay Grinter, Reference Librarian. In part, the story says “pace shuttle missions came to an end in 2011, it’s true, but that doesn’t mean that the shuttles have stopped flying. Space shuttles Discovery, Enterprise and Endeavour will each take to the air one final time in 2012, bound for their retirement destinations aboard a Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, or SCA, a modified Boeing 747 jet. The trio will travel piggyback on NASA 905, the first of two SCAs NASA acquired during the Space Shuttle Program. NASA 905 has been assigned to 65 ferry missions...

Once Discovery arrives safely in Virginia, NASA 905 will give the shuttle prototype Enterprise a lift to the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Later this year, NASA 905 also will support the last-ever shuttle ferry flight when it transports shuttle Endeavour to the Los Angeles International Airport... NASA retired its only other SCA, NASA 911, in February. After it was commissioned in 1990, NASA 911 performed 20 of the 85 ferry flights to date...”.



“From left, pilots Jeff Moultrie, Bob Zimmerman and Henry Taylor deliver Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA) NASA 911 to NASA Dryden Flight Research Center's Aircraft Operations Facility on its final flight in February 2012. Moultrie will be the SCA commander for shuttle Discovery's ferry flight April 17 to the Washington Dulles International Airport aboard NASA 905...”.

From The April 20, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 4, “**Discovery departs Kennedy**”, by Anna Heiney, Spaceport News. Part of the story reads “Space shuttle Discovery departed Kennedy Space Center for the last time with an early morning takeoff atop NASA's Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA) on April 17... The SCA transporting Discovery took off from Kennedy at 7 a.m. EDT, just as the first light dawned at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The ferry flight concluded at 11:05 a.m. when the aircraft touched down at Washington Dulles International Airport in Sterling, Va...”.

Before the departure, invited guests, members of the media and NASA officials were joined at the runway by members of Discovery's first and last astronaut crews for an emotional send-off... The spacecraft's retirement journey began with the ferry flight. It was removed from the SCA and relocated to the Udvar-Hazy Center on April 19... Discovery flew 39 missions, more than any other vehicle in the fleet. Its 26-year spaceflight career began Aug. 30, 1984, ... on the STS 41-D mission... The STS-133 mission to the space station was Discovery's final spaceflight...

The SCA took Discovery on one last aerial tour of Florida's Space Coast. It also flew above the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Vehicle Assembly Building and Kennedy Press Site before making one more pass over the Shuttle Landing Facility on its way out of the area for the final time...”.



“The Shuttle Carrier Aircraft transporting space shuttle Discovery to the Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia flies over the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center on April 17. The shuttle will be placed on display in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center...”.

These two videos highlight Discovery's delivery to and acceptance ceremony at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center, one a [Smithsonian video](#) and the other a [Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery video](#). The National Portrait Gallery video includes commentary by John Glenn, Eileen Collins and Frank Culbertson.

On page 6, “**2012 KSC All-American Picnic**”. The feature states “More than 3,000 people attended the 2012 Kennedy Space Center All-American Picnic on April 14 at KARS Park I on Merritt Island, Fla. This year's picnic celebrated 50 years of success at Kennedy with food and fun, classic children's games, train rides, a singing competition called KSC Idol, exhibits, a chili cook-off, and car and motorcycle show.”



“NASA astronauts Jack Fischer and Serena Auñón, members of the 2009 astronaut class, and STS-118 and STS-133 Mission Specialist Alvin Drew (not shown), meet with workers and their families...”.



On page 8.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center's 50th anniversary, enjoy this vintage photo . . .
FROM THE VAULT



"This aerial view of the Vehicle Assembly Building taken June 24, 1976, shows the Bicentennial Exhibit domes, and in the background, construction of an orbiter processing facility."

What would become OPF-1 is in the upper middle left of the photo.

From The May 4, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 3, "**Space shuttle manager receives esteemed Debus Award**", by Frank Ochoa-Gonzales, Spaceport News. A portion of the article says "Patty Stratton, associate program manager at United Space Alliance (USA), was recently awarded the 2012 Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award by the National Space Club on April 21 in the Debus Conference Facility at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex... The Debus Award was created by the National Space Club Florida Committee to recognize significant achievements and contributions made in Florida to American aerospace efforts..."

Patty Stratton, whose aerospace career spans 30 years, has spent the last 17 years at USA in a variety of management and leadership roles, most recently as the associate program manager for Ground Operations at Kennedy... Stratton began her aerospace career in 1982 as a member of the project office with United Space Boosters, maker of the solid rocket boosters..."



Patty Stratton

On pages 4 and 5, **“Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center”**.



“Former NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong, who in 1969 became the first man to set foot on the moon, sits in the commander's seat of space shuttle Endeavour in Orbiter Processing Facility-2 at Kennedy Space Center. Endeavour is being prepared for public display at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. Over the course of its 19-year career, Endeavour spent 299 days in space during 25 missions...”.



“Space shuttle Enterprise, mounted atop a NASA 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA), is seen as it flies near the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline April 27 in New York. Enterprise was the first shuttle orbiter built for NASA to perform test flights in the atmosphere and was incapable of spaceflight. Originally housed at the Smithsonian's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Enterprise will be demated from the SCA and placed on a barge that eventually will be moved by tugboat up the Hudson River to the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in June.”

[This is a short video](#) narrated by Mike Massimino, explaining some Enterprise history and the Enterprise trip to New York City.

From The May 18, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 3 and 5, **“Shuttle astronauts join ranks of fellow hall of famers”**, by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. [A portion of the story reads](#) “three space explorers were inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex (KSCVC) in Florida on May 5. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz, Air Force

Gen. Kevin P. Chilton and Charlie Precourt became the 11th group of space shuttle astronauts to join the ranks of the distinguished members of the Hall of Fame...

Chang-Diaz served in the astronaut program for 25 years and became one of only two astronauts to fly on seven space shuttle missions. His missions were STS 61-C, STS-34, STS-46, STS-60, STS-75, STS-91 and STS-111... Chilton is a three-time space shuttle astronaut with more than 700 hours in space. He served as pilot on STS-49, the maiden voyage of space shuttle Endeavour, and STS-59... He served as the commander of STS-76... Precourt served in the space program for 15 years and was a mission specialist on STS-55, pilot on STS- 71, and commander on STS-84 and STS-91...”.



[This is a video of the 2012 Astronaut Hall of Fame induction ceremony.](#)

On page 4, **“Shuttle team conducts final heartfelt powerdown”**, by Steven Siceloff, Spaceport News. A portion of the story reads “Technicians working inside space shuttle Endeavour’s flight deck and controllers stationed in the Launch Control Center turned the lights out on the last powered shuttle May 11 as they switched off Endeavour’s displays and systems for the final time...”



“United Space Alliance associate operations chief Pat Leslie toggles the switches to turn off consoles on space shuttle Endeavour’s flight deck for the final time during operations to power down the shuttle May 11.”

“It is a with a great sense of sadness that we say goodnight to Endeavour, and to the Space Shuttle Program as a whole today,” said Mike Ciannilli, a NASA test director who

stood at the integration console in Firing Room 3 during the procedure... I'd like to dedicate this powerdown to those who are not so fortunate to be here today, to those who gave their blood, sweat and heart to the program," said Walter "Buddy" McKenzie of United Space Alliance...

Discovery and Atlantis went through the same steps earlier as they were readied for public display..."

[This video](#) includes information about Endeavour's final powerdown and [this video](#) includes information about the final powerdowns of Discovery and Atlantis.

On page 6, "**Top high school students treated to day at Kennedy**", by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. Part of the article says "Graduating top seniors from Brevard County high schools toured Kennedy Space Center and heard about NASA's past, present and future during the first Brevard Top Scholars Day, May 11. Kennedy's Office of Education coordinated the event that featured a tour of Launch Complex 39, including the Vehicle Assembly Building, and viewing of space shuttle Atlantis in its orbiter processing facility.

Chief of the Education Programs Division Hortense Diggs welcomed the students to the center and congratulated them on their achievements. "Our nation needs scientists and engineers," Diggs said. "I hope each of you will consider pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, fields of study because it is these occupations that will matter most in the 21st century..." Russell Romanella, director of Kennedy's Safety and Mission Assurance gave a presentation on NASA's past, present and future in space exploration...

Chris from Heritage High School in Palm Bay said the tour and presentation were very informative... He plans to pursue a degree in electrical engineering from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. Eau Gallie High School student Jessica said she really liked the day's experience. "I really liked Russell's presentation," Jessica said. She may pursue a career in medicine..."



"Students from Brevard Country high schools gathered for a group photo in front of the Headquarters Building at Kennedy Space Center, May 11, during the Brevard Top Scholars Day sponsored by the center's Office of Education. At right is Education Project Manager Theresa Martinez, and at left is Education Specialist Rachel Prieth-Abrahams."

From The June 10, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**SpaceX Falcon 9, Dragon make history with mission**", by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. A portion of the feature says "SpaceX completed a landmark mission May 31 that saw its Dragon capsule deliver half-a-ton of supplies and equipment to the International Space Station and return safely to Earth. The flight made history as the first privately built spacecraft to rendezvous with the International Space Station... "We are hoping to continue working with NASA and hopefully flying crew within three years," said Elon Musk...".



"SpaceX's Dragon capsule floats in the Pacific Ocean awaiting recovery ships May 31."

On page 4, "**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**".



"Visitors along the jetties at Port Canaveral witness an unusual sight on May 24 -- the high-fidelity space shuttle model passing through the port heading for the Atlantic Ocean. The model is en route by barge from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida to Space Center Houston, NASA Johnson Space Center's official visitor center. The model is expected to arrive June 1 in Houston and to be transported June 3 to Space Center Houston, its final destination, where it will become part of a unique display telling the story of the space shuttle's achievements and the nationwide team that made them possible...".

From The June 15, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 4, “**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**”.

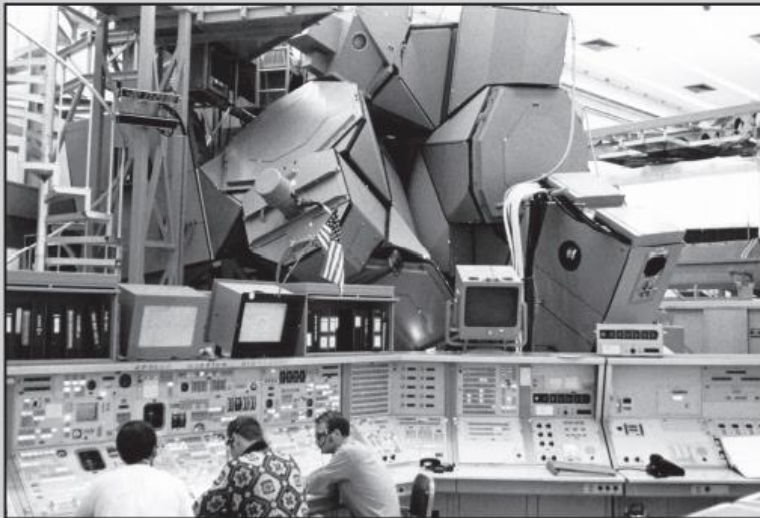


“United Space Alliance forward spacecraft operator Bill Powers locks the hatch of space shuttle Endeavour’s airlock for the final time during processing for the shuttle’s retirement in Orbiter Processing Facility-2 at Kennedy Space Center on June 12. Endeavour is being prepared for public display at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. Its ferry flight to California is targeted for mid-September...”.

On page 8.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center’s
50th anniversary, enjoy this vintage photo . . .

FROM THE VAULT



NASA file/1970

This view of personnel sitting at consoles that controlled the lunar module training simulator located in the Flight Crew Training Building was taken July 22, 1970.

From The June 29, 2012 Spaceport News

This is a special Kennedy Space Center 50th Anniversary Edition. Several of the issue articles will be highlighted in this Summary. Per Wikipedia, "...On July 1, 1962, the Launch Operations Directorate was separated from MSFC to become the Launch Operations Center (LOC)..." and the LOC became Kennedy Space Center in November 1963. Most of this issue articles are broken down by decade, as follows:

- "Dreams became a reality in the 1960s"; "Mankind took giant leap by decade's end"
- "Handshake foretold of cooperation to come"
- "Spaceflight takes on wings in the 1980s"
- "Decade set stage for space station"; "1990s had international flair up there"
- "Station elements came together in 2000s"; "Space Shuttle Program winds down"
- "Solving today's challenges for tomorrow's future"

On page 1, "**Kennedy celebrates 50 years of success**", by Kay Grinter, Spaceport News. Part of the story reads "Fifty years after NASA's establishment of the spaceport that would launch men to the moon and probes to investigate the far reaches of our solar system, Kennedy Space Center is in a state of transition to include commercial utilization and deep space exploration..."

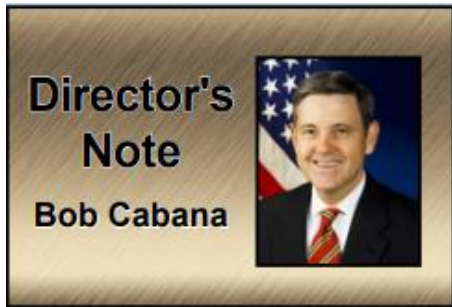
Kennedy's first center director, Dr. Kurt Debus, explained, "Five years ago, when we were first developing the concept for what is now known as Launch Complex 39, consideration was given to designing it as a fixed facility limited to the needs of the then-known Apollo Program," at the American Astronautical Society's 13th annual meeting on the "Commercial Utilization of Space" in 1967... "It was apparent, however, that with the sums of money involved, it would be desirable to interpolate known trends and provide a facility of the future as well," Debus said...

Kennedy, from its infancy was designed with the capability to support the hard transition to commercial utilization and deep space exploration at its core..."



"Throughout the past 50 years, NASA's Kennedy Space Center has carried on America's legacy of processing, testing and launching a wide array of rockets and spacecraft to distant planets and other destinations in space. Launch vehicles, from left, include the Atlas V, the space shuttle, the Delta, the Titan, Apollo's Saturn V, Gemini's Atlas-Agena and Mercury's Redstone. In the foreground are human destinations the center helped NASA reach, including Earth's orbit and the International Space Station. At the top right is NASA's newest spacecraft, the Orion multi-purpose crew vehicle, which will help humans explore deeper into space than ever before."

On page 2, “Commitment to excellence the foundation of Kennedy Space Center's 50th anniversary.”



Part of the feature says “As NASA's Kennedy Space Center celebrates its 50th anniversary, I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to our center, our agency and our country. Your commitment to excellence and safety, teamwork and integrity, continually give us reason to be proud... I'm extremely proud to be part of this amazing team. This is a major anniversary for us, and a celebration of our abilities, but it really is just the starting point for a vibrant future....

Keep Charging,
Bob”

On page 16, “Long-time workers share memories, thoughts about spaceport's future”.

Roy Tharpe
President
Space Gateway Support
49 years at KSC

The past . . .

Most people don't realize the magnitude of what we accomplished . . . 10 launches in 20 months for Gemini, processing three Saturn Vs in flow at one time for Apollo. We worked day and night, creating a great team with lifelong friendships and a work ethic that carried through to the shuttle program and beyond.

The future . . .

We are always in transition and folks need to embrace that and realize that transition brings opportunities since programs come and go. KSC will always process, test and launch something. That's what we do. Embrace the transitions and carry forth the traditional processes that have made KSC



great. Fifty years ago we were known as the Launch Operations Center before the Apollo and shuttle programs and 50 years from now we'll still be a launch operations center, but will we be ready for greatness again? I think we will!

Helen Allen
NASA Secretary
Communications
Infrastructure Services Division
47 years at KSC

The past . . .

A significant change from my past years was when women were able to begin wearing slacks to work. When I started at KSC, women had to dress up and were not allowed

to wear slacks except occasionally if they had the opportunity to go to the launch pad.

The future . . .

Remember to always work as a team and a lot can be accomplished.



From The July 13, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, “**NASA begins next chapter with Orion arrival**”, by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. In part, the article says “The Orion capsule that will make the first flight test into space was celebrated Monday morning as the cornerstone of a new era of exploration for America's space program. The spacecraft's aluminum-alloy crew pressure module arrived at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Friday, June 29, where it will be built up into a fully functioning spacecraft ahead of a test flight slated for 2014...”.



“Mark Geyer, Orion program manager for NASA's Ground Systems Development and Operations, addresses the audience assembled in Kennedy Space Center's Operations and Checkout Building high bay at an event July 2 marking the arrival of NASA's first space-bound Orion capsule in Florida. Slated for Exploration Flight Test-1, an uncrewed mission planned for 2014, the capsule will travel farther into space than any human spacecraft has gone in more than 40 years. The capsule was shipped to Kennedy from NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans where the crew module pressure vessel was built. The Orion production team will prepare the module for flight at Kennedy by installing heat-shielding thermal protection systems, avionics and other subsystems...”.

On page 3, **“Firing Room 3 launch consoles find new homes”**, by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. Part, the story reads “A biomedical console that once was in Launch Control Center (LCC) Firing Room 3 at Kennedy Space Center now is on display at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center at Columbus State University in Georgia... LCC Transition and Retirement Project Lead Debbie Awtonomow said preparing consoles and other space shuttle artifacts for dissemination to universities and museums is all part of ongoing transition and retirement activities...”

In May, the Public Affairs console was delivered to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex where it will be readied for permanent display along with space shuttle Atlantis. The Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., is hoping for three launch consoles and the Launch Director’s console. The Space Walk of Fame in Titusville is making room for a set of three main floor consoles and a smaller console from the test conductor’s row...”



“Lance Tankersley, planetarium director of the Coca-Cola Space Science Center at Columbus State University in Georgia, left, and others assist with the removal of the biomedical console from the Kennedy Space Center’s Firing Room 3 in March”

On page 8.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center’s 50th anniversary, enjoy this vintage photo . . .

FROM THE VAULT



“President John F. Kennedy visits Cape Canaveral on Sept. 11, 1962. Among the VIPs accompanying him are Launch Operations Center Director Kurt Debus (in front of the president) and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson (behind the president).”

From The July 27, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 1.

In Memoriam

“Ride inspired, took giant leap for women”, by Bob Granath, Spaceport News. [A portion of the article reads](#) “Sally Ride is best known as the first American woman in space. Following her death on July 23, 2012, at the age of 61, she also is being remembered as a soft-spoken physicist who wanted to inspire young people to consider careers in technical fields. “As the first American woman to travel into space, Sally was a national hero and a powerful role model,” President Barack Obama said in a statement released by the White House... Following her career with NASA, in 2001 Ride founded her own company, Sally Ride Science, to pursue her long-time passion of motivating girls and young women to pursue careers in science and math...”

One of 35 astronauts selected in 1978, Ride was in the first group of Americans selected for spaceflight that included women and minorities. She and five other women were chosen out of 8,000 total applicants. The class dubbed themselves the "Thirty-Five New Guys." Ride was one of the first four “New Guys” launched into orbit when she was a member of Challenger's STS-7 crew, which lifted off June 18, 1983... Ride returned to space on STS-41G, launched Oct. 5, 1984...

Ride later served on the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident that investigated the loss of the seven-member STS-51L crew in January 1986... Ride left NASA in 1989 to join the faculty at the University of California, San Diego, as a professor of physics and director of the University of California's California Space Institute. After the loss of the STS-107 crew in 2003, Ride again helped the agency by serving on the Columbia Accident investigation Board...”



“Sally K. Ride, who became America's first woman in space in 1983, flew on two shuttle missions.”

To Sally’s right in the photo is Anna Fisher, another astronaut selected in 1978. [This is a short video about Sally](#), among many videos available. Lynn Sherr narrates.

On page 2, **“Astronaut panel shares experiences with ISU participants”**, Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. In part, the story reads “International Space University (ISU) participants Tejal Thakore from India, Christian Luthen from Germany, Kazuyuki Okada from Japan, and many others from around the world heard about the future of human spaceflight during an astronaut panel discussion July 11 at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida... “It’s been a great experience,” Okada said.“ ... “This has been a fantastic and exceptional experience,” Thakore said...”.



“Current and former NASA and international astronauts spoke to participants of the International Space University on the future of human spaceflight during a panel discussion at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on July 11. Participating in the discussion from left are Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana; Winston Scott, dean of the College of Aeronautics at Florida Institute of Technology; former NASA astronaut Kent Rominger, vice president of Alliant Techsystems and former NASA astronaut; Nicole Stott, NASA astronaut currently on detail at Kennedy Space Center; Jim Voss, director of advanced programs at Sierra Nevada Corp. and former NASA astronaut; Garrett Reisman, senior engineer with SpaceX and former NASA astronaut; Ken Bowersox, former NASA astronaut; and Chiaki Mukai, a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut.”

From The August 10, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 4 and 5, **“We Made History! Shuttle Program Celebration”**, by Steven Siceloff, Spaceport News. A portion of the story says “Omar Baez completed his eighth trip to Mars when NASA’s Curiosity rover touched down perfectly inside the Gale Crater to begin a two-year geologic survey of the mysterious red planet... Nine months ago, Baez was carefully going over the details of Curiosity ahead of its launch... As launch director for NASA’s Launch Services Program, it was up to Baez to confirm that the one-ton robotic rover was ready to...” launch.... On Nov. 26, 2011, Baez gave his “go” to start the mission...

Even after launching eight spacecraft to Mars, Baez' work with the red planet is not finished. The Launch Services Program is working toward the launch of the MAVEN

mission, a spacecraft that will study Mars from orbit...". It is scheduled to launch in late 2013."



"This is the first image taken by the Navigation cameras on NASA's Curiosity rover. It shows the shadow of the rover's now-upright mast in the center, and the arm's shadow at left...".

[This is an interview with Omar.](#)

On page 5, "**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**".



"Children of Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance workers enjoy a day of mind-expanding activities at Young Minds At Work (YMAW) on July 18 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The event, which allows parents to showcase their place of work, aims at encouraging the study of and potential careers in Science, Engineering, Math and Technology (STEM). More than 200 children participated."

From The August 24, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 4, **“Astronaut recalls 'historic' expedition to space station”**, by Bob Granath, Spaceport News. Part of the story says “International Space Station astronaut Ron Garan returned to NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Aug. 8 and spoke to employees about his experiences during Expeditions 27 and 28... "It was a very historic mission," he said. "We saw the last two shuttle missions come up and dock, but we also saw the transition from construction to utilization of the International Space Station."...



“During his presentation to Kennedy Space Center employees Aug. 8, astronaut Ron Garan, right, presented a photo montage with images from Expeditions 27 and 28 to Center Director Bob Cabana.”

On page 5, **“Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center”**.



“Members of the Kennedy Space Center team who helped process the space shuttles Endeavour and Atlantis, gather for a group picture after the two spacecraft were brought together for a brief photo opportunity Aug. 16. Endeavour moved from Orbiter Processing Facility-2 (OPF-2) to switch places with Atlantis which had been in the Vehicle Assembly Building. In the OPF, Atlantis will undergo final preparations for its transfer to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, targeted for November.”

From The September 7, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 2, **“Workers praise Armstrong as an American hero”**, by Bob Granath, Spaceport News. A portion of the article reads “Employees at NASA's Kennedy Space Center paused recently to remember Neil Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon and one of America's greatest heroes of exploration. Armstrong died Aug. 25 at the age of 82. During a brief wreath-laying ceremony on Aug. 31, Bob Cabana, Kennedy's center director, described Armstrong as a role model. “Neil Armstrong was a true American hero, and one of the nicest gentlemen around,” he said. “He was the epitome of what an engineering test pilot should be...”

Tributes honoring Armstrong have been numerous. “Neil was among the greatest of American heroes - not just of his time, but of all time,” President Barack Obama said in a statement released by the White House... NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, like Cabana a former astronaut, also reacted to the loss of a fellow former astronaut. “Besides being one of America's greatest explorers, Neil carried himself with a grace and humility that was an example to us all,” Bolden said. Fellow Apollo 11 moon-walker Buzz Aldrin also honored Armstrong's flying skills. “I know I am joined by millions of others in mourning the passing of a true American hero and the best pilot I ever knew,” he said...”



“Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana addresses employees and guests gathered for a brief ceremony on Aug. 31 to honor Neil Armstrong, who died Aug. 25 at the age of 82. Armstrong was hailed by Cabana as one of our heroes and a truly great American.”

On page 3, **“Atlantis' new home at visitor complex topped out”**, by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. Part of the feature says “The new home for space shuttle Atlantis was topped out Wednesday with its highest beam in a milestone ceremony marking the continuing construction of a 90,000-square-foot exhibit hall at the Kennedy Space Center

Visitor Complex... The 38-foot-long, one-ton steel beam was lifted 116 feet off the ground where workers locked it into place. A small tree and American flag were fitted onto the beam, which was signed by hundreds of contractor and NASA employees...

Construction is far from complete on the structure. Now mostly a framework of steel beams, workers will enclose the space in the next couple of months, careful to leave one wall open so Atlantis can be rolled in and the building finished around it... Atlantis will be the last shuttle to move out of the operational area at Kennedy. The move will take place Nov. 2, with the shuttle attached to the orbiter transport vehicle, or OTV, that carried the shuttles for years from their processing hangars to the Vehicle Assembly Building.

The OTV will take Atlantis on a 9.8-mile journey from the VAB to the headquarters building at Kennedy, then across to the developing Exploration Park for a three-hour stop before finishing the trip to the visitor complex's exhibit structure... The shuttle will be lifted onto a stand and tilted at 43.21 degrees - that number is intentional - with its payload bay doors open. The shuttle will look as it did in space..."



"A steel beam is fitted to the highest point of a new exhibit facility under construction at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Sept. 5. The 90,000-square-foot facility will house space shuttle Atlantis and 62 shuttle program exhibits." "A worker signs the steel beam before it was lifted and placed at the top of the exhibit structure being built for space shuttle Atlantis on Sept. 5."

From The September 21, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 5, "**Endeavour heads to California**", by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. Part of the story reads "Space shuttle Endeavour and the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft landed at Ellington Field in Houston on Sept. 19 to complete the first day of its trek from Florida to Los Angeles where the shuttle will be placed on public display. As the SCA approached Houston, it performed a low-level flyover carrying Endeavour over some of the city's landmarks..."

The aircraft combination, weighing some 475,000 pounds, took off Sept. 19 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center then flew over the Space Coast in a salute to the region that hosted the shuttles during 30 years of launches and landings. The SCA and Endeavour also soared low over Disney World in Orlando during its trip west. Later, the Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans and Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, were treated to a view of Endeavour atop the modified 747...

The SCA and Endeavour departed at dawn Sept. 20 and made a fuel stop at Biggs Army Air Field in El Paso before proceeding to Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards Air Force Base in California. As of press time, the ferry was scheduled to depart Dryden on Sept. 21 for a flyover of northern California and areas of the Los Angeles basin before landing at Los Angeles International... In October, Endeavour will be moved to the California Science Center..."



"Space shuttle Endeavour takes to the sky from the Shuttle Landing Facility at Kennedy Space Center at 7:22 a.m. EDT mounted atop NASA's Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, or SCA, on Sept. 19. In the background is the 525-foot-tall Vehicle Assembly Building..."

[This video is some footage of Endeavour landing at LAX and the trip through Los Angeles to get to the California Science Center.](#)

On page 5, "**Scenes Around Kennedy Center**".



"NASA's Space Shuttle Program across all centers received an award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) at the AIAA Space 2012 Conference and Exposition in Pasadena, Calif., on Sept. 12. Accepting the award on behalf of Kennedy Space Center is former shuttle launch director Pete Nickolenko, deputy director of Ground Processing, third from right..."



On the left, “Major League Baseball’s Minnesota Twins welcomed Kennedy Center Director and Minneapolis native Bob Cabana to start the Minnesota Aerospace and Aviation Week by signing a baseball which was launched by a balloon on Sept. 16.” On the right, “Astronaut Drew Feustel, and other members of the STS-134 crew, visited with Kennedy workers Sept. 17 in the OSB II fifth floor conference room...”.

From The October 5, 2012 Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 5, “**Celebration honors rich 50-year history**”, by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. In part, the story states “The massive, white Saturn V rocket suspended from the ceiling of the Apollo/Saturn V Center, served as the backdrop for celebration, Sept. 22, to mark Kennedy Space Center’s 50th Anniversary and the achievements of the last five decades. The gala’s theme, “Celebrating the Past and Preparing for the Future,” was fitting as nearly 650 current and former NASA civil service and contractor employees, dignitaries and guests mingled, reminisced about days past and reconnected with colleagues from the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs...”.



“Hundreds of attendees listened to NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden during Kennedy Space Center’s 50th Anniversary Gala at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Apollo/Saturn V Center on Sept. 22. The gala was coordinated by Kennedy Space Center and the National Space Club Florida Committee with the theme, “Celebrating the Past and Preparing for the Future.”...

On page 2, **“Significant steps made toward Atlantis display”**, by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. In part, the story reads “Inside Orbiter Processing Facility-2 at Kennedy Space Center, Tim Keyser, the midbody mechanical lead with United Space Alliance (USA), and Ray Propst, USA Atlantis flow manager, watched as space shuttle Atlantis’ two 60-foot-long payload bay doors were closed for the final time Sept. 20... NASA Flow Director for Orbiter Transition and Retirement Stephanie Stilson said preparations have been going extremely well and the significant work on Atlantis is completed. “Closure of Atlantis’ payload bay doors is one of the significant final milestones in order to prepare Atlantis for its move to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex,” Stilson said...”.



“The right payload bay door closes on space shuttle Atlantis as both payload bay doors were closed for the final time on Sept. 20. During the course of its 26-year career, Atlantis spent 307 days in space during 33 missions.”

On page 5, **“Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center”**.



“Astronauts Mike Fossum and Cady Coleman look over a model capsule fit with rotor blades ahead of tests inside the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center on Sept. 20.”

On page 8.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center's 50th anniversary, enjoy this vintage photo . . .

FROM THE VAULT



"The Apollo 104 command and service modules arrived at Kennedy Space Center on Oct. 7, 1968. They were used for the second crewed Saturn V flight. The sign says, "Good luck again Jim, Dave and Rusty -- 104 opens the door," referring to astronauts James McDivitt, David Scott and Russell Schweickart, who flew on the mission."

The mission was Apollo 9, which launched on March 3, 1969.

From The October 19, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 1, "**Workers celebrate milestone move**", by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. Part of the feature states ". A portion of the article states "The Oct. 17 move of space shuttle Atlantis from Orbiter Processing Facility-2 to the Vehicle Assembly Building gave employees at Kennedy Space Center an opportunity to celebrate. The milestone completed preparations for display at Kennedy's visitor complex. Atlantis will remain in the VAB on display until it is transported to its final home at Kennedy's visitor complex next month...".



"Employees at Kennedy Space Center admire space shuttle Atlantis as it moves from Orbiter Processing Facility-2 to the Vehicle Assembly Building on Oct. 17...".

Preparations for the move to Atlantis' new home included closing of the shuttle's crew hatch on Oct. 11. As he did with the final hatch closure on Endeavour, Bob Cabana, director of Kennedy and a former space shuttle commander, lent a hand in bay 2 of the Orbiter Processing Facility as USA technicians Danny Brown and Dave Chodkowski performed the task. Cabana turned the special T-shaped tool, which is much like a key, to lock the hatch in place....”.

On page 3.



“A long line of bicyclists head north on Kennedy Parkway toward the Vehicle Assembly Building on the first leg of the Tour de KSC on Oct. 6.”

On page 5, “**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**”.



“Turner Classic Movies, or TCM, brought their Classic Film Festival to Kennedy Space Center on Oct. 13 with a free screening of "Forbidden Planet," presented in the Rocket Garden at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Kennedy Director Robert Cabana, left, NASA astronaut Mike Massimino and TCM host Ben Mankiewicz participated in a panel discussion before the movie started.”



"Merlin engines ignite under the Falcon 9 rocket at Space Launch Complex 40 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., on Oct. 7. The rocket carried a Dragon capsule to orbit. Space Exploration Technologies Corp., or SpaceX, built the rocket and capsule for NASA's first Commercial Resupply Services, or CRS-1, mission to the International Space Station. The spacecraft joined the station three days later. Dragon is scheduled to return to Earth on Oct. 28 for a parachute-assisted splashdown off the coast of southern California."

From The November 5, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, "**Atlantis trek keeps spirit of exploration alive**", by Steven Sicheloff, Spaceport News. [Part of the article states](#) "NASA gave space shuttle Atlantis a grand sendoff Nov. 2 moving the orbiter 10 miles from its workplace of almost 30 years to a new, custom-built museum exhibition at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex... "Godspeed Atlantis, on your next mission of inspiration and motivation," said NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden shortly before signing over the retired shuttle for permanent display... Shuttle-era astronauts and members of the workforce who readied the space shuttles for 30 years came in before sunrise to see Atlantis off..."



"Children from the Kennedy Space Center Child Development Center wave flags as space shuttle Atlantis makes its way home to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Nov. 2."

The move began at about 6:30 a.m. with the shuttle backing out of the Vehicle Assembly Building. Atlantis moved down the wide roadway between the three orbiter processing facility hangars... before being turned around at sunrise to take Kennedy's main roadway south. The trip concluded 11 ½ hours later with Atlantis reaching the new exhibit area. The shuttle Atlantis made two ceremonial stops along the way so center employees and the public could pay tribute..."

On pages 5 and 6, "**Atlantis: The final space shuttle journey**".



"Led by the Merritt Island High School Color Guard and the Titusville High School band, space shuttle Atlantis is transported along NASA Causeway at Kennedy Space Center on its 10-mile journey to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Nov. 2."

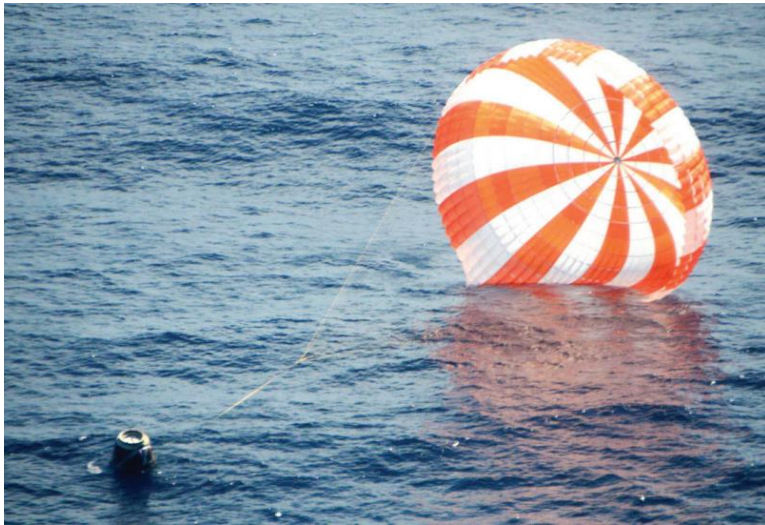


"NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden, left, and Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana hold the just-signed document transferring the title of space shuttle Atlantis to the center as Atlantis pauses during its 10-mile journey to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex for a ceremony to commemorate the transfer. Participating in the ceremony, from the left, are Chris Ferguson, who

commanded Atlantis' final mission; Bolden; Cabana; Karol Bobko, commander of Atlantis' first mission; and Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts Chief Operating Officer Bill Moore."

[This is a time-lapse video of Atlantis going from the VAB to the Visitor Complex.](#)

On page 7, “**NASA's Scenes Around The Nation**”.

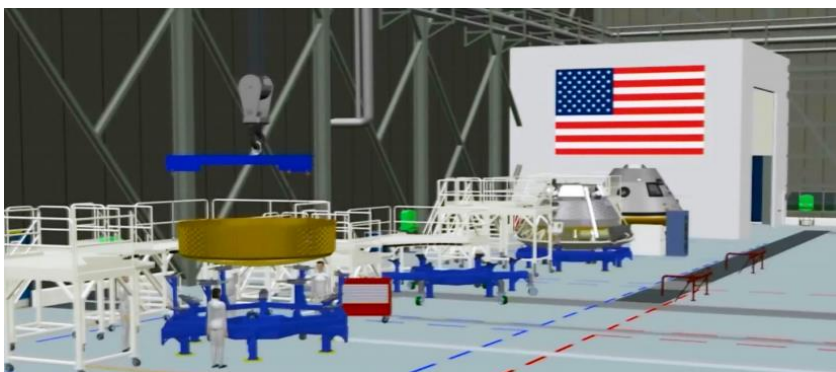


“A Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Dragon spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on Oct. 28, a few hundred miles west of Baja California, Mexico. The splashdown successfully ended NASA's first contracted cargo delivery flight to resupply the International Space Station.”

From The November 16, 2012, Spaceport News

On pages 1 and 2, “**Partnership paves way for modernization**”, by Rebecca Regan, Spaceport News. A portion of the story reads “A facility full of platforms that once fit NASA’s space shuttles like a glove is transitioning to make room for a new fleet of low-Earth orbit bound spacecraft.

Now called the Commercial Crew and Cargo Processing Facility (C3PF), the former Orbiter Processing Facility-3 (OPF-3) at Kennedy Space Center is not only going through major renovations to support the manufacturing of The Boeing Company’s CST-100 spacecraft. It’s also receiving international recognition as an innovative approach for converting excess government buildings into next-generation commercial facilities. “The agreement that we put in place to get OPF-3 turned over to Space Florida so that they could make it available to Boeing really set the stage for a model that can be used time and time again,” said Bob Cabana, Kennedy’s center director...



“This artist conception is what The Boeing Company’s CST-100 spacecraft processing is expected to look like in Space Florida’s Commercial Crew and Cargo Processing Facility (C3PF) at Kennedy Space Center with work stations on a clean floor.”

Before Boeing's CST-100 will take up residency inside C3PF and the adjacent Space Shuttle Main Engine Facility in the summer of 2013, both will undergo demolition and modernization phases. For the past month and a half, workers with Hensel Phelps Construction Co. of Orlando, Fla., have been busy carefully bringing down the shuttle's old processing stands to make way for a clean-floor factory-like concept..."

On page 6, "**Celebration honors 40th anniversary of Apollo 17**", by Bob Granath, Spaceport News. Part of the feature states "On Nov. 3, the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation hosted a dinner at the Radisson Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral celebrating the 40th anniversary of Apollo 17. The gala featured spacecraft commander Eugene Cernan who, along with lunar module pilot Harrison Schmitt and the late Ronald Evans, flew the mission that concluded NASA's Apollo moon landing program..."

Cernan, along with other astronauts in attendance, reminisced about the mission. Schmitt was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. "If Apollo 17 was looked at as a success, don't look at me, look at these guys," Cernan said pointing to 10 Apollo astronauts on the stage with him and to former and current space program employees in the audience. "We built upon everything they did."...



"Eugene Cernan speaks to guests gathered for the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation's dinner on Nov. 3 celebrating the 40th anniversary of Apollo 17. Listening at left is Buzz Aldrin, lunar module pilot on Apollo 11, the first moon landing mission."

From The November 30, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 3, "**Lift and tilt prepares Atlantis for display at visitor complex**", by Linda Herridge, Spaceport News. In part, the article reads "Positioned near the center of its new home, space shuttle Atlantis, still in its protective shrink wrap, is surrounded by scaffolding and ascending concrete floors as construction continues on the 90,000-square-foot exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex... In mid-November,... Ivey's Construction, Beyel Brothers, and BRPH, along with technical support from United Space Alliance, raised Atlantis 26 feet from the ground level."

This feat was achieved using support equipment from Kennedy Space Center's Orbiter Processing Facilities, four 800-ton jacks provided by Beyel, and large blocks of wood, or

dunnage, to gradually elevate Atlantis into position. Earlier this week, Atlantis, minus its wheels and tires, was slowly tilted to exactly a 43.21 angle to the portside atop steel stands. Its portside wingtip is only 7.5 feet off the ground, while its nose is 26.5 feet off the ground. The front and aft beams are attached to Atlantis at locations used for shuttle ferry flights...”.



“Construction work continues on space shuttle Atlantis’ new home at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Nov. 27. Inside the building, Atlantis, still in its protective shrink-wrap covering, has been lifted 26 feet above ground level and tilted at a 43.21 angle to the portside.”

[This is a short time-lapse video of the shrink wrap coming off Atlantis.](#)

On page 4, **“Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center”**.

“National Space Club Florida Committee honors Kolcum winners”. The article reads “The National Space Club Florida Committee named Sid Champagne, WFTV photographer, and Emily Perry, USAF Space and Missile Museum curator, the 2012 Harry Kolcum Memorial News and Communications Award winners Nov. 13. Named for the late aerospace writer who worked for Aviation Week & Space Technology, the Kolcum award recognizes the contributions of professional journalists and communicators to inform the public about launch operations from the spaceport.”



On the left, “Sid Champagne, ...WFTV photographer receives the 2012 Harry Kolcum Memorial News and Communications Award from National Space Club Florida Committee chairman Jim McCarthy...”. “Emily Perry, right, USAF Space and Missile Museum curator, is all smiles as she accepts the 2012 Harry Kolcum Memorial News and Communications Award...”.

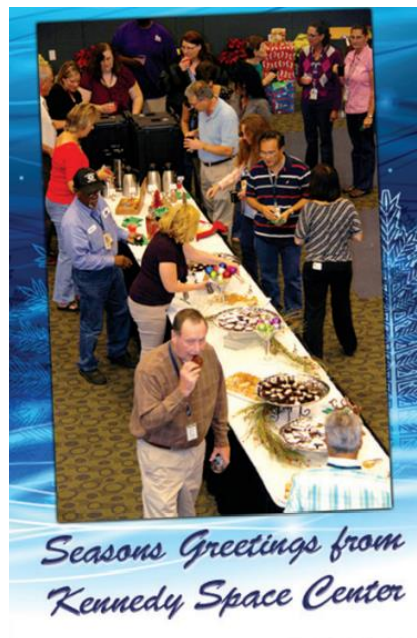
From The December 14, 2012, Spaceport News

On page 5, “**Scenes Around Kennedy Space Center**”.



On the left, “NASA astronaut Scott Kelly participates in a NASA/Roscosmos press conference Dec. 5 at Johnson Space Center, previewing his upcoming yearlong International Space Station expedition with Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko (not pictured). At Kelly's right is Johnson Space Center Public Affairs moderator Josh Byerly.” On the right, “A special fixture that enables precise prelaunch processing stands in place around an Orion spacecraft inside the high bay of the Operations and Checkout Building on Dec. 6. This Orion capsule is being prepared for a flight test in 2014 on a mission that will not carry any astronauts.”

On page 6, “**2012 KSC Holiday Coffees**”.



On page 9, “**Brevard Space Week inspires future explorers**”, by Bob Granath, Spaceport News. A portion of the story reads “Words over the entrance to the Exploration Space exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex declare, “Explorers Wanted.” Between Nov. 26 and Dec. 7, thousands of future astronauts, scientists and engineers walked through those doors during Brevard County Space Week. This year, 5,300 sixth-graders in Brevard County were bused to Kennedy’s visitor complex for an educational program designed to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers...

“Over a period of nine days, we had all the sixth-graders throughout the county come in for science demonstrations and hands-on activities,” said Kerri Lubeski, senior educator and coordinator of Brevard Space Week for Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts. “This is the tenth year we’ve done this, and the reaction from the students has always been enthusiastic.”...



“Teams of five students use kits with identical plastic pieces to build a space station-like truss at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Dec. 4. Following construction, weights were added to determine their strength, and points were awarded based on how much weight each could support.”

On page 11.

In celebration of Kennedy Space Center’s 50th anniversary, enjoy this vintage photo . . .

FROM THE VAULT



“During a light moment in the Astronaut Suiting Laboratory 44 years ago, a technician presents Apollo 8 Commander Frank Borman with a holiday stocking prior to his six-day lunar orbital mission with James Lovell and William Anders. The crew launched Dec. 21, 1968, from the Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Pad 39A.”